

The Scranton Tribune

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SCRANTON, MARCH 29, 1895.

THE SCRANTON OF TODAY.

Come and inspect our city. Elevation above the tide, 740 feet. Extremely healthy. Estimated population, 1895, 105,000. Registered voters, 25,000. Value of school property, \$300,000. Number of school children, 12,000. Average amount of bank deposits, \$10,000,000. It is the metropolis of northeastern Pennsylvania. Can produce electric power cheaper than Niagara. Better point in the United States to establish new industries. See how we grow: Population in 1880, 9,000. Population in 1870, 25,000. Population in 1860, 45,000. Population in 1850, 75,000. Population in 1840 (estimated), 100,000. And the end is not yet.

This city has been too efficiently served by City Solicitor Torrey to warrant it in making another experiment. The work that he has done in every way meets the requirements and it should therefore be fittingly recognized and rewarded by the testimonial of a cordial re-election.

As to Interpreters.

"The Scranton grand jury that recommended an official court interpreter at a good salary displayed good common sense," observes the Wilkes-Barre Record. "The courts of various counties are infested with a gang of alleged interpreters upon whom little or no dependence can be placed when it conflicts with their interests. These men, possessing more intelligence than the average foreigner, use it to stir up strife and promote litigation. In this way ignorant Huns, Poles and others are dragged into the courts on trivial and often baseless charges. Not being able to speak English the interpreter is called in. He is supposed to do his duty honestly, under oath, but there are so many ways in which an answer can be interpreted without telling a technical untruth, that an interested interpreter may garble the evidence and give it a direction not warranted by the facts in the case.

"Not long ago the writer was present at the trial of a case before a Wilkes-Barre alderman. The prosecuress was a Hungarian woman. She charged a countryman with attempting to strike her with an axe. The alleged offense was committed more than a year before the defendant was arrested. An interpreter was called in and the woman was making out a pretty strong case. The attorney for the defense, however, suspected that all was not right and consulted a gentleman present who understood the Hungarian language. Upon cross-examination the woman admitted that the accused did not attempt to strike her with the axe; that she tried to take it away from him and he held it above his head, out of reach. When she persisted, he threw the axe away. Then the attorney questioned the interpreter, and that worthy confessed that he had advised the woman to swear out the warrant. Had not the lawyer's suspicions been aroused, the defendant might have been convicted and sent to jail.

"This is only one of many instances in which the amateur interpreter seeks to embroil ignorant people in expensive lawsuits. Of course this does not apply to the higher courts of this county. The present court interpreter as far as we know has done his duty honestly and faithfully, but there is a horde of hangers-on who continually stir up dissensions among certain classes of people in order that their peculiar talents may be profitably employed. These fellows are a scandal and a disgrace to any county and should be rooted out by the authorities. They are firebrands setting neighbors at each other's throats, vampires, who, under cover of the law, rob their victims of their money by plunging them into endless litigation."

The time was when a sneer from Thomas C. Platt at the efforts of men to attain public ends without his consent possessed the ominous force of an Olympian frown. But that time appears, and not unfortunately, to be fast passing away.

An Expert on "Reform."

The remarks of the honorable Richard Croker on reform, very much like the remarks of His Satanic Majesty on virtue, are doubtless not a little influenced by personal considerations. Reform has thrown Croker out of a job. He cannot, therefore, view it with unqualified appreciation. But it is at least something that Mr. Croker is willing frankly to avow his feelings in the matter. That fact enables the public to properly estimate the nerve of the man who, coming up by the partisan ladder from the gutter to luxurious af-

fluence, is bold enough to face and criticize and even taunt the citizenship he has so unsparingly despoiled. "I do not know that I care to talk about that," said the ex-chief of Tammany Hall, when recently asked by a reporter what he thought about the reform administration. "I presume Mayor Strong is a conscientious and able man, and will do the best he can." Then Mr. Croker said, musingly: "Reform, reform! Isn't it curious how many things are done under its cover? Did it ever strike you that reform in some of its phases needed a good deal of reformation? There are in this city many honorable gentlemen who sincerely believe in what they say about reform, but there are thousands of others who carry it as a cloak simply to conceal their political dark lanterns and jimmies. We shall see how it will work."

The "dark lantern and jimmy" brigade does, unfortunately, exist. The public has had a clear vision of such a following in the desperate fight made by the Platt element in New York and Albany to appropriate the people's victory to its own uses. For weeks these dark lantern gentry have "held up" legislation in the senate chamber which the people had unmistakably demanded; and have sought, by a dexterous shuffle, to substitute legislation not at all to the popular liking. But there are numerous indications that this political bunco game has got to the end of its resources. Governor Morton is against it and in favor of fair play; Mayor Strong and the decent people of New York are against it and have so declared in language not to be mistaken. And finally, the very senate which they owned absolutely, is turning against it, and the people are applauding the change.

Under these circumstances, we shall indeed see how reform will work.

If it is true, as alleged, that Speaker Fish, of the New York assembly, is trying to pocket the Troy police bill as a political favor to Senator Murphy, he ought to be brought to book. Murphyism in politics, as exhibited in the gross misgovernment of Murphy's home city, is something with which reputable Republicans can have no "private understanding."

Slipshod Diplomacy.

Sometimes a plain statement of facts is more eloquent than any comment. A case of this kind is presented to view in some remarks recently made by Judge Lambert Tree, of Chicago, to a representative of the Herald of that city. Judge Tree had been pointing out some of the palpably weak spots in our diplomatic methods and had alluded to the embarrassing small confidence in American honesty and good faith manifested in official circles at foreign capitals. He continued: "In my own diplomatic experience two striking cases of the carelessness of the American congress came under my observation. Some years ago, at the instance of the Belgian government, an international congress was held for the purpose of suppressing the African slave trade. The United States, with other nations, was invited to send delegates, the proposed action of the congress having no bearing whatever upon commerce or territorial acquisition. The United States did send a delegate and the disclosures made before the conference were most appalling. It was shown that perhaps 500,000 Africans were every year sold in slavery, and that in the efforts to capture slaves and in the wars between tribes engendered by this nefarious trade upward of 100,000 human beings were every year butchered. Such a thing as this was generally regarded as a stain upon nineteenth century civilization, and the conference adopted stringent resolutions for the suppression of the traffic and punishment of the offenders. This agreement was reached unanimously," continued Judge Tree, "but one of the conditions was that every nation participating in the conference should ratify the agreement before it could go into effect. The treaty was in due course of time submitted to the United States senate by the president, and no one dreamed that there would be any objection to its ratification. Surprising as it may seem, there was objection, and on a vote the treaty was laid upon the table. I was in Brussels at the time, and was compelled to hear the comments of public men in Europe concerning our congress, comments which make my ears burn to this day. Shortly afterward I returned to the United States and began a regular campaign with a view to securing ratification of this treaty. I wrote scores of letters to members of the senate and came to Washington and interviewed many of them personally. One of the conditions of the treaty was that none of the signatory powers were to be permitted to sell either powder or spirits to the African tribes. When the United States failed to ratify the treaty we were at once thrown under the suspicion of having defeated it because we wished to keep other nations out of that iniquitous trade while our own merchants were free to sell powder and whisky to the poor blacks. When the matter was properly put before them, senators agreed with me that we could not afford any such odium as this, and when the treaty was brought up in the ensuing congress it was promptly ratified. But the episode served to increase the suspicion under which our government rests in foreign eyes.

"The other case," continued Judge Tree, "occurred during the Grant administration. We had entered into a treaty with the king of Denmark for the purchase of the Island St. Thomas, one of the Virgin group of the West Indies. I forget the amount of the purchase price, but it was considered a good bargain. The contract was duly signed

and the Danish government supposed the matter was settled. It renounced authority over the people of St. Thomas, releasing the inhabitants from allegiance to the government at Copenhagen. Officials were withdrawn and every preparation made to turn the island over to the United States. Very much to the surprise of President Grant and everyone in this country and to the utter consternation of the good old king of Denmark and his ministers, congress refused to appropriate the money, and the bargain was off. One may imagine the feeling of contempt for the United States with which King Christian and his ministers went back to St. Thomas to re-assert their dominion and re-establish the authority they had surrendered."

The Mafia incident in New Orleans, recently repeated so far as its international principle was concerned; and the case out in Colorado not long ago, wherein subjects of foreign governments were shot down by mobs in defiance of state authority point to another lax feature of our diplomacy. Foreign governments naturally look to Washington for settlement of these outrages. They do not know that under the American constitution the authorities at Washington are entirely powerless in the matter, and cannot even proffer a money indemnity without sanction of congress. It is altogether probable that a constitutional amendment will yet be necessary to the proper covering of such obviously embarrassing discrepancies between the federal and the state governments.

Another death is reported in consequence of the neglect of "faith-cure" parent to secure, when needed, the attendance of a physician upon an ailing daughter. It is a sad feature of most of these now-common tragedies that the victims are usually defenseless persons upon whom delusions may be practiced with comparative impunity. One rarely hears of a faith curist killing himself.

For a Percentage License System.

A graded liquor license law, such as is proposed by the executive committee of the state Retail Liquor Dealers' association, is open to the objection that it would offer room for false returns as to the amount of business done. But if the license principle be conceded at all, why should the license fees not be graded in proportion to the gross value of the liquor sold, assuming that this could be approximately ascertained? This would put the heavy burdens on dealers who could well carry them, and the light ones on dealers to whom a high license fee would obviously be a great hardship. If the state wants to peddle its favors out equitably and in strict accordance with business principles, the graded license system, it seems to us, is the system whereby to do it. Any other system is sure to be clumsy in comparison.

But the grading ought to be complete and uniform. There ought to be no distinction because of the size of the place in which the license is granted. The commonwealth should exact a stated percentage of the gross receipts, the same in crossroad villages as in the metropolitan cities. As a partner in the business, the state may reasonably claim such a share in the profits; and if it should have to guard its own or get ingloriously cheated, it might perhaps ordain a better enforcement of its liquor laws than prevails under the present Brooks law. For, if the state's license money were diminished every time a drink of liquor was bought in a unlicensed saloon, it is easy to see that it would be to the state's direct pecuniary interest to have as few "speakeasies" as possible running in competition with the licensed places in which it secures a "take-off."

The state, at present, is under no such incentive to enforce the Brooks law. When it has collected enough license money to suit its purposes, it rents from its laborers, and lets the remaining liquor sellers do business without contributing to its coffers. In our own country, for example, it collects from less than half of the places that sell intoxicants. This is grossly unfair to the smaller number who are mulcted because of their willingness to obey the law; and scarcely less so to the larger number who, by finding that they can violate one law with impunity, naturally conclude that any law may be set aside when it suits their purposes to do so. But it is useless to expect the state to remedy this unjust situation merely because of its moral obligations in the premises. We must look to monetary considerations for a cure. Make the state an open partner in the benefits of the business, and then it will perhaps protect its own.

WEST WANTS CAMERON.

Gotham Letter in Pittsburg Dispatch. Standing in the lobby of the Fifth Avenue hotel today were three United States senators. Like the common folk who make their temporary home in this old-fashioned, hence roomy, hostelry, they occasionally cast eyes through the large windows facing Broadway in order to catch a glimpse of the pretty faces and figures in the parade, which is always at its best at the point indicated. Between sinks, they chatted with a three-little maids-from-school freedom that put the corps of reporters on watch immediately at ease. The statesman in the group were Senator Dubois, of Idaho; Pettigrew, of South Dakota, and Proctor, of Vermont. The newspaper men forced them to turn their thoughts from beauty to politics, which wasn't a very hard task, and drew out of the trio these utterances: "In the west," said Senator Dubois, "the people will not support any man for the presidency who does not favor silver. We will not form a third party, but we can manage to throw the election into the house by refusing to vote for the candidates in the electoral college. The western people will support the candidate of the party who favors the free coinage of silver, whether he is a Democrat or a Republican."

In answering the question, "Has the west any presidential candidate?" the senator said: "I think at present the west almost unanimously is in favor of the nomination of Senator Don Cameron, of Pennsylvania. Senator Teller would make a

splendid candidate, but he is too far west. Senator Cameron is a strong Republican. He is for protection to American industries; he lives in a protection state, and, above all, he is for the free and unlimited coinage of silver. He will have the support of the western states at the national convention, and his nomination is among the probabilities." Senator Dubois then went on to say that the west didn't care a snap about the platform, because such things weren't lived up to anyway. He and his constituents knew that Don is solid on the free silver question, and that is sufficient. The senator didn't take any stock in Hon. Joseph Sibley and his third party, as new parties are not to his liking. He expressed surprise at the growth of silver sentiment in the metropolis, and argued from this that the west wasn't standing alone on that issue.

"An Organized Appetite."

From the Lebanon Daily News. Charles A. Dana, of the New York Sun, told the Boston reporter the other day that he was not certain that there would be a Democratic party in this country for a leader next year. "If the supreme court decides that the income tax is constitutional," said Mr. Dana, "there will be no Democratic party. It will totally collapse. It will have no mission to perform. Mr. Dana seems to have forgotten the late Emory A. Storr's definition of the Democratic party as an organized appetite. What other mission has it had in the last thirty years?"

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer. Astrologic cast for 2.10 a. m. for Friday, March 29, 1895.

The chances are that a child born on this day will, if a male, in after years be possessed of a sharp and rasping voice, a leathery lung and an invincible disinclination to paying doctors' bills.

If a female, the child born on this day is liable to evince a fondness for wax dolls, tuffi fruit and prolonged tete-a-tetes over the front gate; to which may also, in course of time, be added a firm, almost obstinate, predilection for milliners' windows, bargain counters and missionary tents.

The business enterprise begun on this day will prosper and yield good profit if the right man is chosen to "grease the wheels" of trade. If a traction enterprise, employ Gallagher.

Ajacchus' Advice. Don't grumble at the "dusiness" of this grip-scrippled department unless you possess a receipted subscription bill. It is a mean "headache" that finds fault with the free show.

Unless you have large faith in the power of faith to avert calamities, don't let your children play in front of our fenderless trolley cars. When desirous of reaching the trade-markers in this vicinity, don't hide your advertisements in papers that people read mechanically, through force of long habit. Put them where the ideas are.

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EUREKA LAUNDRY, 322 Washington Ave.

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GOLDSMITH'S BAZAAR. A LITTLE WALL PAPER TALK

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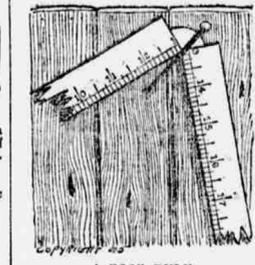
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Cie Postoffice Building, Corner Penn Avenue and Spruce Street.

The doctor is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, formerly demonstrator of physiology and surgery at the Medical-Chirurgical college of Philadelphia. His specialties are Chronic, Nervous, Skin, Heart, Womb and Blood diseases. DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM The symptoms of which are dizziness, lack of confidence, sexual weakness in men and women, ball rising in throat, spots floating before the eyes, loss of memory, unable to concentrate the mind on one subject, easily startled when suddenly spoken to, and dull distressed mind, which unites them for performing the actual duties of life, making happiness impossible, distressing the action of the heart, causing flush of face, depression of spirits, evil forebodings, cowardice, fear, dreams, melancholy, fits, easy of course, feeling as tired in the morning as when retiring, lack of energy, nervousness, trembling, confusion of thought, depression, constipation, weakness of the limbs, etc. Those so affected should consult us immediately, and be restored to perfect health.

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Weakness of Young Men Cured. If you have been given up by your physician call upon the doctor and be examined. He cures the worst cases of Nervous Debility, Neuritis, Old Scars, Catarrh, Piles, Female Weakness, Affections of the Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat, Asthma, Dyspepsia, Tumors, Cancer and Craples of every description. Constitutional free and strictly secret and confidential. Office hours daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday, 9 to 2. Enclose five 2-cent stamps for symptom blanks and my book called "New Life." I will pay one thousand dollars in gold to anyone who can cure a case of EPILEPTIC CONVULSIONS or FITS.

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